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Your Community Magazine

Issue 175 October 2015 FREE

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The Savings Gap

I noticed in the financial press in the last few weeks that the country's largest building society the Nationwide is offering 95% mortgages again. Then I saw NatWest were offering interest only mortgages. All this makes you think "have we not been here before?" And what is really worrying is that yet again all the financial emphasis appears to be on borrowing money, and not saving it.

In a recent survey conducted by True Potential research showed that **Britons are putting aside an average of £1.72 per day** into their pension pot – less than the cost of a high street coffee. The survey asked over 12,000 people, as part of ongoing campaign and found that, overall, people are spending more on impulse buys like coffee and snacks in a month than they are investing in a comfortable retirement.



Don Wernham,
Financial Planner

Britons are **investing £51 per month** on average into their retirement funds. However, they are **spending £56 per month** on impulse purchases and getting into increasing amounts of debt. This rises again in 18-34 year olds, who confessed to spending £75.90 per month on impulse buys – that's **£2.53 per day**.

The research concluded that Britons took on an **average of £1,272 worth of debt** in the last three months, with a majority believing it is easier now to get into debt than it was 10 years ago.

The pension freedoms introduced earlier this year have given savers more control than ever over their retirement funds. The earlier people start saving and the more they are prepared to put into their funds, the more options they will have when the time comes to access their pension.

We live in an impulse debt culture but we need to impulse save instead. The fact that many people choose to spend money on small items like coffee and snacks than their retirement funds points to a culture of complacency and a lack of awareness.

— TECHNOLOGY

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• Pensions are changing due to the March 2014 budget and you now have a lot more options to consider'

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Editor's comment

THERE has been considerable disquiet south of the Manchester Ship Canal over the Boundary Commission's draft proposals for ward boundaries – and this is hardly surprising.

It seems to make little sense to move the historic Appleton Thorn village out of Appleton and insert it into Grappenhall, nor to move Thelwall into Lymm.

And moving Hatton, Stretton and Walton into Appleton, while it might make some kind of mathematical sense, would totally ignore existing communities, history and traditions.

Why do the Boundary Commission want to make these changes – and what qualifies them to do so?

Well, it's all to do with how many constituents are represented by each member of the borough council. The Commission points out, quite rightly, that the borough has high levels of electoral inequality and suggests its proposals will make things fairer.

Its first mistake is to suggest that the borough council needs an extra

member. The council shares this view but we would rather see a reduction from the current 57 – we don't see much evidence of borough councillors being overworked. If they were, there would not be so many willing to take on the extra role of parish councillor!

Then it ignores the obvious advantages of having parish councils which cover, as far as possible, the same areas as borough council wards. Under their proposals, Appleton Parish Council, for instance, will find itself involved in the affairs of three borough wards.

The Boundary Commission claim to take existing communities and geographical boundaries into account in their deliberations, but there is precious little evidence they have done so. The Bridgewater Canal, long considered a suitable natural boundary, no longer seems to be so. Party politics are not supposed to enter into the equation and here, at least, the Commission seems to have got something right, because none of our local politicians like the proposals!



One is left with a vision of members of the Commission, none of who have any local knowledge, sitting in some ivory tower in London, working with slide-rules and computers, and coming up with a solution that still has an electoral variance of up to 10 per cent and won't please anyone either.

Fortunately, everyone can have a say and we would urge everyone to do so. The deadline is October 19 and representations can be made either by email to reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to the Review Officer (Warrington), The Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 14th Floor, Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4QP.

Fond farewell to long-serving school governor

ONE of Cheshire's longest-serving school governors has retired – after 40 years service.

Sybil Moseley has stepped down as a governor at St Wilfrid's CE Primary School, Grappenhall.

Mrs Moseley left with the thanks

of the whole school for her years of commitment and support.

She has seen the school change considerably in the past 40 years, watching the buildings and pupil numbers increase beyond recognition since 1975.

A spokesperson for the school said:

"We are delighted that although Mrs Moseley is no longer a governor, she is going to continue to come into school to work with our children on a regular basis."

■ Mrs Moseley with some of the pupils



Villages could be wiped off the map

HISTORIC villages could be erased from the electoral map if draft recommendations from the Boundary Commission are given the green light.

Hatton, Stretton and Walton would become part of Appleton, Thelwall would be "taken over" by Lymm – which itself would be split in two – and Appleton Thorn would become part of Grappenhall, which would also lose a small area to Lymm.

The proposals have angered councillors in all areas – including Cllr Paul Kennedy, who represents Hatton, Stretton and Walton on the borough council and has launched a campaign to preserve the ward.

The Commission says the review is being carried out as the borough currently has high levels of electoral inequality.

Overall, 41 per cent of wards currently have a variance of more than 10 per cent from the average, they claim.

Cllr Kennedy said: "The Boundary Commission have erased Hatton, Stretton and Walton as a ward.

"Not only that, they do not acknowledge these three important local and distinct communities in the wards of Appleton and Stockton Heath, that they are proposing they merge with.

"It is accepted that Hatton, Stretton and Walton, while geographically large, has a small population, but while the Commission talks about equality of votes, residents are much more concerned about quality of representation and accountability. As it is now, that is exactly what residents receive.

"In my opinion, that will not be the case if the ward is broken up, and the names of the three parishes are erased as a borough ward."

Cllr Kennedy urged residents to write to the Boundary Commission to help save the ward.

Appleton councillor Judith Wheeler said: "The proposed changes came as a great shock to us.

"We can't understand why the Commission has destabilised Appleton. The Bridgewater Canal is no longer a natural boundary as we lose many roads to Stockton Heath. Taking in Stretton and Hatton made some sense but we thought Walton might go with Stockton Heath to increase its electorate.

"Losing Appleton Thorn to Grappenhall is awful. If approved, Appleton Parish Council would cover three electoral wards.

Cllr Ian Marks, of Lymm, said: "Lymm is a distinct community with its own identity and lumping it in with Thelwall makes no sense.

"Common sense has gone out the window because it is much better if borough and parish councillors represent the same areas.

"Community interests and identities are more important than arithmetic equality based on an exercise done by people using maps and population numbers but no real local knowledge."

Closing date for representations is October 19 and can be made via email at reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to: Review Officer (Warrington),

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England 14th Floor, Millbank Tower London SW1p 4QP



Paul Kennedy at Hatton.



Ian Marks at Thelwall

Picnic tables give Millennium Green an "outdoor classroom"

SIX new wooden tables/benches have been installed on The Lumb Brook Millennium Green, Appleton – made and delivered by the team at The Walton Lea Project.

They will form part of an area for outdoor education and training, community events and picnics.

Funding for the tables/benches

was provided by Neighbourhoods in Warrington, South Area Board (NiW).

Julie Kueres a director of the Lumb Brook Millennium Green said: "We were really pleased when we heard

our application for funding had been successful.

"We have always worked closely with our local schools whose pupils, together with our local community, helped plant up the Green at the turn of the century. Throughout the years pupils have come to plant daffodils and bluebells and learn about nature first hand.

"Now we have an outdoor classroom, which will be extremely useful for them. It can also be used as an outdoor training facility for volunteering groups and situated alongside the 'Festival Green' area will provide seating for community events. It's also a lovely place for family picnics, birthday parties etc."

Julie added: "The team from Walton Lea did a fantastic job and are wonderful to work with. We'll certainly be working with them again in the future - many thanks also to the volunteers who did the installation works."

The Lumb Brook Millennium Green had a second reason to celebrate having again obtained the prestigious Green Flag Award.

Val Davies, director of LBMG said: "It's such an honour to have again received a Green Flag Award from Keep Britain Tidy. We are all absolutely delighted!"

For updates on The Lumb Brook Millennium Green visit www.millenniumgreen.moonfruit.co.uk





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New fitness craze taking villages by storm

A new fitness concept is taking Grappenhall Heys and Appleton by storm. Residents around Grappenhall Heys Woods and Walton Gardens may have noticed people walking with what look like ski poles!



In fact they are Nordic walking and part of the fastest growing fitness activity in the world with over 10 million enthusiasts now regularly taking part in what was originally used by super fit cross country skiers as a way to stay fit during the summer.

It's suitable for all ages and fitness levels, simple to learn and really sociable" says Kerry King a local Nordic walking UK Instructor.

"By using the specially designed poles, you can use all the major muscles in the body and burn up to twice as many calories as ordinary walking but the best thing is that the poles actually propel you along so it feels easier!" adds Kerry.

The poles also reduce the pressure on the knees and joints and the gentle upper body movement is great for easing back and neck pain too. It's so effective that it is being used for weight loss, rehabilitation and sports specific training all the over the UK and those that have tried all agree that being outdoors was energising and that they felt fantastic afterwards!

However it is not simply a case of grabbing a pair of poles and walking with them! It requires the correct

technique in order to get the whole body working and it is essential you learn this from a qualified instructor who will ensure you get the full benefit and fastest possible results. Kerry offers come and try sessions and 4 week technique courses in Appleton - Check out her page on the

Nordic walking UK website for all the dates and times www.walkfitcheshire.co.uk or call them on 07481 863660 to give it a try!

Kerry would like to invite people for a free trial session of Nordic walking - just give her a call on her mobile to arrange.



NORDIC WALKING FACTS

- * It can burn nearly twice as many calories as ordinary walking
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- * It uses over 90% of the major muscles
- * Its suitable for all levels
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- * Its great for back, neck and shoulder problems
- * Outdoor exercise is proven to have a positive effect on the state of mind
- * Over 700 NWUK Instructors offer courses and sessions in the UK

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Advertiser's announcement

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Ibiza can be reached by direct flights from your local airport and has something for everyone.

Santa Eulalia has both a marina and beaches with water sports etc a very cosmopolitan area with shops, restaurants and cafes. Transfer time approx 1 hour from the airport. Take either a transfer coach or a hire car to get to your chosen accommodation Es Cana is an beautiful area set in pine trees and hosts the famous hippy market. This is home to a huge variety of cafes, restaurants and bars with lovely beaches offering water sports. Again this is approx 1 hour from the airport there is a small harbour to stroll around.

There are adult only hotels to choose from around the island as well as family friendly ones. Playa d'en Bossa is near Ibiza town thus is busier and more night life is accessible There is a waterpark, water sports and it has the longest beach on the island. There are restaurants, cafes and shops and transfer time is approx 20 mins.

Portinatx is set on a headland and has a hippy market on a Sunday. Transfer time is approx one and a quarter hours from the airport there are 3 sandy areas to visit here edged with pine trees. Good assortment of cafes, restaurants and bars.

Es Figueral is a good family holiday

destination with nice golden beach. transfer time is approx one and three quarter hours from the airport - again by transfer coach or hire car. The sea is shallow with nice beach with water sports - making it an ideal destination for families. Port d'es Torrent, an hour transfer from the airport, consists of sandy beach, pine trees, a few shops, cafes, bars and restaurants.

San Antonio Bay, (next to San Antonio Town - a livelier option) is a peaceful beach resort boat trips run from here to other bays and nice



■ Linda Crowder – Stockton Heath Travel

restaurants to choose from in the evenings sunset cruises are popular from the west side of the island.



Santa Eulalia



San Antonio Bay

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Visitors step back in time at Walton Country Fayre

Pictures: John King

VISITORS stepped back in time at Walton Hall & Garden's biggest event of the year - the Cheshire Country Fayre.

English Civil War re-enactments and WWII displays provided plenty of interest alongside Dog displays, Mountain bike displays, live music, children's fun fair, narrow boat rides, craft stalls, children's entertainer, farmers market, gourmet hot food and much more!

Alan Willoughby and his wife Victoria from Chester Living History are pictured warming up for the re-enactment with a sword fight while Helen Hancock demonstrates a Matchlock Muske.

Meanwhile Kieran Rizzotti and Josh Lewendon of Chester Living History, displayed Second World War Equipment.

Tony Haggis of Chester Living History demonstrated how an early woodworking lathe worked.

Vintage Cars were also on display at the event.

Crowds were also thrilled by the Savage Skills Cycle team.



■ Left, Alan Willoughby and his wife Victoria of Chester Living History have a sword fight



■ Helen Hancock from Chester Living History demonstrates a Matchlock Musket



■ Tony Haggis of Chester Living History shows how an early woodworking lathe worked.



■ Vintage Cars at the Walton Hall and Gardens Country Fayre.



■ Left, Kieran Rizzotti and right, Josh Lewendon of Chester Living History show Dean Stapleton aged 12 and Grace Deery aged 8 Second World War Equipment.



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Money Column

By Margaret Black

Self Assessment Tax Return deadline

The time beloved by all taxpayers and accountants alike is fast approaching; the January 31st Self Assessment Tax Return deadline. The last sentence contained two very important words – self and assessment. It is the taxpayers responsibility to submit a return of income and to calculate and pay any tax liability if they fall into the self assessment system. Penalties will be charged on late returns and tax payments even if a return has not been issued by the tax office.



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

So who must complete a return? You must inform the tax office that you are within the self assessment system if:

- You receive self employed income at any time within the tax year
- You receive untaxed income, such as rents, in excess of £2,500. You may need to complete one below this limit and should contact the tax office for further advice
- You received total savings or investment income of £10,000 or more
- You made a profit from selling chargeable assets, such as shares or a second home
- You were a company director at any time in the year, unless your directorship was both of a non-profit making organisation and you received no pay or benefits from the directorship
- You or your partner claimed child benefit and one or both of you had income in excess of £50,000
- You received income from abroad that was subject to tax
- You lived abroad and received income in the UK
- You received company dividends and were a higher rate taxpayer
- You received total income in excess of £100,000
- You were the trustee of a trust or a registered pension scheme.

If any of the above applied to you in the tax year then you have until 31st October in the following tax year to inform the tax office. Penalties can be charged if you fail to do so, and most certainly will be charged if you fail to pay any tax due by the following 31st January.

If you have received a notice to complete a tax return then you must complete and submit it by the following 31st January. If you fail to do so then penalties will start being charged immediately, and will increase over a relatively short period to £1,600 even if you do not owe any tax. There is one exception. If you have received a return and, having read the above, you consider that you do not fall into any of the categories then if you contact the tax office and they agree then they will withdraw the notice. However, ignoring the notice and doing nothing is not an option. Please note that this "get-out" is not available if any of the above do apply to you even if no tax is due.

The Money Column is provided by WatkinsonBlack, Chartered Accountants, 264 Manchester Road, Warrington, WA1 3RB. Please note that the above is intended to inform and not to advise. For further details please telephone 01925 413210 or e-mail on info@warringtonaccountants.co.uk.

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End of the road for historic Ship Inn

Pictures: Peter Wood



THE former historic Ship Inn at Walton was demolished by housing developers after a wall collapsed during work on the site.

Contractors were working on the conversion of the old pub into apartments when the collapse occurred - forcing police to close the A56 Chester Road to traffic.

The development, by Elan Homes, involved building 14 four and five bedroomed houses behind the old pub, which in recent years had been used as an Indian restaurant, but which had been closed for some time.

Chester Road was completely closed between The Stag and Walton Lea Crematorium for some time, causing lengthy traffic delays in the area.

Cllr Paul Kennedy, who represents the area, visited the site shortly after the collapse.

He said: "I spoke to a structural engineer on site who told me the police had said the building should be demolished as a matter of public safety and I can see why the police would say that - the building was in a perilous state.

"But some local residents are annoyed because the only reason they did not object to the development was that they believed the old pub would be restored.

"I am reserving judgement until I see the planning application that comes in.

"It won't affect the rest of the site - work is continuing on the houses. But it would be good if the developer could recreate the Ship Inn as apartments, as originally intended, as this would give some character to the site frontage.

"The main thing, however, is that no-one was killed or injured."



An up and down summer for cricket

IT was an up-and-down summer for local cricket clubs.

UP went Warrington, Stretton, Appleton and Lymm Oughtrington Park. DOWN went Grappenhall.

One outcome of the changes is that old rivals Warrington and Grappenhall will be playing each other again in "derby" matches.

Grappenhall finished bottom of the Vivio Cheshire County League ECB premier division, picking up only two league wins in the season. This was a big disappointment following two seasons when the village club had survived in the top tier of Cheshire cricket with comfortable mid-table positions.

Toft, who looked set to be champions until Grappenhall, in a rare class performance, held them to a draw a few weeks before the end of the season, ended up in third place.

Warrington were crowned champions of the first division.

In the TACS Partnership Cheshire League, Lymm Oughtrington Park were division two champions despite losing their last three matches.

Stretton were champions of the Cheshire Alliance first division and Appleton also gained promotion by claiming runners-up spot. Both clubs will now go up to the Cheshire League next year.

Knutsford, who had started the season hoping for promotion from division two ended up only narrowly avoiding the drop to division three.



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Redundancy sparks complete career change



WHEN faced with the prospect of redundancy after 30 years in the world of marketing and advertising Paul Hazeldine took the plunge with a complete career change - running his own home and garden maintenance business.

Although Hazeldine Home and Garden has now been running for just three months, Paul is already relishing his new career.

"I've worked in advertising and marketing for 30 years and had the pleasure of working with some big brands and people at Mercedes Benz, BP, Nissan, Fiat and Alfa Romeo, said Paul.

"When redundancy came my way I was told in a polite way that my age was against me, so I could either sit in front of a PC sending CVs off or do something myself. I did the latter. I much prefer working outdoors and I love gardening.

Hazeldine Home and Garden offers basic lawn and garden maintenance to garden makeovers.

Paul added: "So far I've been very busy. Among our customers are two Pre-school Nurseries, a Church, and many local residents. You can see what we've been up to on our Facebook page and website www.hazeldinehomeandgarden.co.uk

"I've had fantastic support from friends and family. As we enter into autumn I've already been booked for end of season garden clear-ups and makeovers. I've even been booked to spread salt and clear snow."

It's been quite a hectic year for Paul. Not only with a career change but also getting married.

"This year has brought some challenges but the wedding was a welcome break. Lindsay did a lot of the organising and I did what I was told. We had a brilliant day, it passed far too quickly."

Paul added: "If you see me or the van please do give me a wave. The reception I've had from everyone has been overwhelming."

Outstanding exam results at Withington Girls' School

WITHINGTON Girls' School is celebrating another set of outstanding results at both A Level and GCSE this year, reinforcing the Independent Schools Inspectorate's judgment that the pupils' achievements are 'exceptional'.

All A-level examinations were passed, with an impressive 37% of all subjects achieving the top A* grade, whilst at GCSE, Withington's Year 11 students achieved the highest grade of A* in an impressive 67% of all entries, ten times higher than the national award of the A* grade to the top 6.6% of entries.

Headmistress, Mrs Sue Marks, praised the students for their self-motivation and hard work, which had helped to produce these outstanding achievements. "We are all so delighted for our girls", she said. "These brilliant results are the just reward for all their hard work, and they also reflect the fantastic support of the girls' own

families, as well as the excellent teaching and pastoral care they have received at Withington".

Open days are being held during the Autumn when girls and their families are invited to tour the school. Withington benefits richly from drawing academically able girls from all backgrounds, cultures and faiths. The School strives to improve and develop whilst remaining - as stipulated by its Founders - 'a small school, and for the new academic year Withington has expanded to offer a purpose-built junior school building, an impressive social 'Hub' area, remodelled chemistry laboratories and a refurbished design technology workshop.



"Sports teach discipline and commitment, they challenge and build character for everything you do in life."

Howie Long



OPEN DAYS

Sixth Form

For girls aged 16+
Thursday 15th October
6.00 to 8.00pm

Senior School

For girls aged 11-18
Thursday 5th November
4.30pm to 6.30pm
Saturday 7th November
10.00am to 12noon

NEW PURPOSE-BUILT, EXPANDED JUNIOR SCHOOL OPENED SEPTEMBER 2015
Additional classes for girls in Years 5 & 6

Junior School

For girls aged 7-11
Thursday 5th November
4.30pm to 6.30pm
Saturday 7th November
10.00am to 12noon

Means-tested bursaries now available from Year 5 upwards



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What's on in the villages

October 13
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath. 7.30pm

October 15
GRAPPENHALL & THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL
Council Offices, Bellhouse Lane. 7.30pm

LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S
Sophie Rosa (violin), Ian Buckle (piano) play
Beethoven Sonata No 2 in A, Elgar Sonata in E
minor, Brahms Sonata No 1 in G major, Kreisler
"Syncopation" and "Midnight Bells", Wieniawski
Polonaise in D major.
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm.

October 20
APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

Every Sunday
GRAPPENHALL HEYS WALLED GARDEN
Witherwin Avenue, Grappenhall Heys, WA4 3DS.
Cafe open from 12 noon-4pm serving teas, coffee,
home-made cakes and savouries.

Every Monday
COFFEE TIME, St Mary Magdalene's Church, Appleton,
9-11am.

COUNTRY DANCING CLUB
St Thomas' Primary School, Parkgate Road, Stockton
Heath.
8-10pm. Details: 01925 262356

BRIDGE CLUB
Belong Warrington, Loushers Lane 7.20pm. Details
01925 262534

LADIES' FRIENDSHIP CLUB
The Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road,
Thelwall.
8pm. Details: 01925 264099

HIGH LEGH RUBBER BRIDGE CLUB
Village Hall, 7-10pm. Details: Audrey Greaves 0161
904 0120

Every second Monday
PARK (APPLETON) WI
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 7.30pm

Second and fourth Monday
WARRINGTON ART GROUP
Bellhouse Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane,
Grappenhall. 7-9pm.

Every third Monday
NATIONAL VEGETABLE SOCIETY
Cheshire District meeting
Grappenhall Ex-Servicemen's Club, Chester Road,
Grappenhall.
8pm. Details: 01925 265773.

Every fourth Monday
MARLFIELD WI
Grappenhall Community Library, Albert Road,
Grappenhall. 7.30pm

Every Tuesday
COFFEE MORNING
St Cross Church, Appleton Thorn. All welcome.
10am-12 noon

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
Quays Community Centre,
Thelwall New Road, Thelwall. 7.30pm.
Contact: 01925 757582.

COFFEE MORNING
Appleton Independent Methodist Church
Appleton Parish Hall, 10am-12 noon

Every second Tuesday
STOCKTON HEATH LIONS CLUB
London Bridge Inn, 8pm
Contact: Grahamclisse58@outlook.com. Tel 01925
262669

Every Wednesday
APPLETON HALL BADMINTON CLUB
September - April at Hall Drive, Appleton. 7.30-
10pm.
Details: 01925 262356

Every first Wednesday
WALTON WI
St John's Church Community Hall. 7.30pm
Details: 01925 604384

STOCKTON HEATH PROBUS CLUB
Warrington Sports Club, Walton Lea Road, Higher
Walton. Details: 01925 268540

Every third Wednesday
HIGHER WALTON WI. St John's Community Hall,
7.45pm. Details 01925 262001.

Every fourth Wednesday
ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY
Support Group, Brampton Lodge Day Centre, Bridge
Lane, Appleton. 6.30-8.30pm

Every Thursday
THE SILVER QUAYS Senior Citizen's Club
The Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road,
Thelwall. Details: 01925 753474.

BRIDGE CLUB
Belong Warrington, Loushers Lane 7.20pm. Details
01925 262534

Every second Thursday
STRETTON WI
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road. 2.30pm.
GRAPPENHALL PROBUS CLUB
Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane,
10am. Details: 01925 264427.

Every third Thursday
NORTH EAST CHESHIRE FLOWER CLUB
Warrington Golf Club, London Road, Appleton. WA4
5HR 2pm Details: 01925 740419

GRAPPENHALL WI
Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane
2.15pm

Every Friday
APPLETOTS TODDLER GROUP
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road.
9.45-11.30am. Details: 01925 268153.

To list your event call Village Life on
01925 623632



Eight-year-old Max hits a hole-in-one

RORY McIlroy "wannabe" Max Hilton from High Legh has gone one better than his hero by hitting his first hole-in-one at the age of eight.

Max used his fairway wood to ace the 110 yards par 3 ninth hole on the academy course at High Legh Park Golf Club.

Rory waited until he was nine before hitting his first hole-in-one.

Hitting back towards the clubhouse, Max's ball landed on the edge of the green and rolled straight into the hole in full view of his coach and fellow golf students.

Coach Natalie Adams couldn't believe it and she led the high fives

as the rest of the boys went crazy.

Max, the youngest in the class, was thrilled and couldn't wait to call his parents with the news.

When mum and dad arrived it was the traditional round of drinks in the clubhouse - Fruit Shoots of course!

Max has been playing golf and having lessons with Natalie since he was 6 years old.

His dream is to be a pro one day - just like his hero Rory McIlroy.



Natasha bounces back to be crowned number one!

JUST 14 weeks after being in intensive care fighting for her life Warrington gymnast Natasha Coates bounced back - to be crowned Number One Disability Gymnast in the UK!

Natasha, aged 20 from Appleton, who suffers from a rare condition which makes her body allergic to exercise, won another five gold medals at the recent Disability British Championships at Bolton Arena.

She suffers from a condition which affects cells in her body known as Mast Cells.

The full name is Spontaneous Urticaria and Spontaneous Angioedema leading to Idiopathic Anaphylaxis.

Alongside this she also suffers from Asthma, Eczema, Allergic Rhinitis and Oral Allergy Syndrome.

Natasha, who only recently battled back from another stay in hospital with the condition said: "My goal this year was to just compete. Competition day marked only 14 weeks since I was getting out of intensive care, so it was a tough time, going from barely being able to take more than a few steps to competing gymnasts routines at elite disability level. However, compete I did!

"I hit all my routines and made it through the competition without getting too unwell, so I was happy just to have made it through the competition.

"I was completely overwhelmed to find that I had come 1st on all of the apparatus, as well as the all-around champion for my category and the highest female all-around score of the day!

"It felt so surreal and it makes it a total of 14 British titles won in just over 11 months because of the timing of the competitions.

"When I developed this life threatening condition just over two years ago things were really tough and if someone has told me that in just a few years' time that I would be the number 1 Disability Gymnast in the UK, I certainly wouldn't have believed them."

"For this year's competition my leotard was specially designed with the help of Quatro leotards from a design I drew up on a scrap of paper when I was in intensive care.

"The heartbeat across the sleeves represents life and hope, and the awareness ribbon on the back with wings represents all those who have lost their life to this condition.

"I was particularly emotional after my floor routine as my new floor routine is called 'My immortal' and it tells my story with a sad ending, showing that people are dying from a condition that no-one even knows about.

"My friends and other coaches were crying because they all knew how much that performance meant to me after losing a few friends to this condition this year; I was competing for them."

Natasha is a member of The Wire gymnastics club, which is currently fundraising for a foam pit to help Natasha and her teammates develop harder skills safely.

Natasha added: "My club has been so supportive of me and understanding about my disability that I would love to find some sponsors to help fund the new pit as a way of saying thankyou."



STOP PRESS! Natasha was back in intensive care as Village Life went to press.

Meet your MP

David Mowat

David Mowat, MP for Warrington South, holds regular surgeries throughout the constituency. If you would like to arrange an appointment to discuss an issue of concern to you please e-mail him at david.mowat.mp@parliament.uk or telephone 01925 231267.

David Mowat
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